



HEALTH PROFILE: CHINA

HIV/AIDS

Estimated Number of Adults and Children Living with HIV/AIDS (end 2003)	840,000 (Low estimate—high estimate) (430,000—1,500,000)
Total Population (2004)	1,313,309,000
Adult HIV Prevalence (end 2003)	0.1%
HIV-I Seroprevalence in Urban Areas	
Population most at risk (commercial sex workers and their clients, patients seeking treatment for sexually transmitted infections, or other persons with known risk factors)	0.0%
Population least at risk (pregnant women, blood donors, or other persons with no known risk factors)	0.0%

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By the end of 2003, China's Ministry of Health (MOH) had reported HIV cases in all mainland provinces, autonomous regions, and municipalities. According to the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), about 840,000 people in the country have HIV, of whom 80,000 are living with AIDS. The first infection was detected in 1985. Since 1999, the annual rate of reported HIV cases has increased by 30%. According to UNAIDS and the MOH, total HIV infections in the country could reach 10 million by 2010. About 70% of HIV infections are attributed to injecting drug use and tainted plasma from unsafe blood product collection procedures from paid donors, with the remainder occurring via sex workers and their clients, men who have sex with men (MSM), and mother-to-child transmission (MTCT). HIV/AIDS affects all parts of the country, but the bulk of the impact has occurred in rural, poor areas in about 200 of China's 2,800 provinces.

NATIONAL RESPONSE

As outlined in its long-term plan for 1998–2010, China's HIV/AIDS program focuses on reducing transmission among high-risk populations and preventing further spread of HIV among the general public. Between 2001 and 2005, the government established nationwide centers for disease control and prevention; secured increased funding for HIV/AIDS education, prevention, and treatment, as well as surveillance and pilot programs for high-risk populations; and issued updated regulations and recommendations on the clinical diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Together with the United Nations Development Programme, the National People's Congress held a forum on creating a legal and policy environment to support HIV/AIDS prevention, and at the end of 2003, the MOH and the United Nations Theme Group on HIV/AIDS launched the Joint Assessment of HIV/AIDS Prevention, Treatment, and Care in China. In response to surveys of HIV prevalence among people identified as having used illegal blood banks in the early 1990s, the government has also implemented a campaign against the unsafe blood market, strengthening law enforcement and arresting members of organizations that sell blood. About 80% of China's blood supply is now collected from voluntary donors.

In 2004, to emphasize treatment and prevention of the disease as national priorities, China issued the "Notice on Enhancing the Prevention and Treatment of AIDS" and organized a working committee as well as a national conference on HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment. Related government services include the provision of free antiretroviral treatment

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HIV-I Seroprevalence in Rural Areas (2003)	
Population most at risk (commercial sex workers and their clients, patients seeking treatment for sexually transmitted infections, or other persons with known risk factors)	4.6%
Population least at risk (pregnant women, blood donors, or other persons with no known risk factors)	0.0%

Sources: UNAIDS, U.S. Census Bureau

to needy AIDS patients in rural areas; anonymous, free testing in high-prevalence areas; free testing to pregnant women to help prevent MTCT; waivers of school fees for AIDS orphans; and financial support to needy AIDS patients. National HIV prevention services, including about 20 sterile needle-exchange sites, currently reach about 3% of China's estimated 4 million injecting drug users. Services are also provided to about 5% of the nation's estimated 3.5 million sex workers and about 1% of the estimated 5.1 million MSM in the country. There is a growing demand for antiretroviral treatment, which is provided to about 8.4% of those with AIDS. Government HIV-prevention activities also focus on raising awareness among the general population, particularly young people. Achievements thus far include the addition of HIV/AIDS educational materials to some secondary school curricula and the reduction of social stigma, exemplified in the 2003 visit by China's government officials to a Beijing hospital, where the premier and vice-premier met and shook hands with AIDS patients.

USAID SUPPORT

Although the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) does not have an office in China, HIV/AIDS support is channeled to the country via its Regional Development Mission in Asia (RDM/A) and its Greater Mekong Regional HIV/AIDS Strategy. The RDM/A manages regional and country-specific programs in mainland South East Asia (Burma, China, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Thailand, and Vietnam), including the "Effective Responses to HIV/AIDS and Other Infectious Diseases" program for China. This activity was previously managed in Washington, D.C., and is currently being redesigned for streamlined activities and improved performance. The RDM/A coordinates HIV/AIDS activities supported through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief; Mother and Child HIV Prevention; and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Launched in 2004, the Greater Mekong Regional HIV/AIDS program focuses on prevention and treatment across the Mekong region, including the Chinese provinces Yunnan and Guangxi, and is implemented by USAID partners Family Health International (FHI), Population Services International (PSI), Futures Group/POLICY Project, and the International HIV/AIDS Alliance.



Launched in 2004, USAID's Greater Mekong Regional HIV/AIDS program focuses on prevention and treatment across the Mekong region, including the Chinese provinces Yunnan and Guangxi.

In Yunnan and Guangxi, USAID partners are working with the provincial HIV/AIDS committees and local governments to develop models for HIV prevention and care. Current activities include drop-in centers that provide information and support to injecting drug users and sex workers, clinics for those with STIs, advocacy activities promoting the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS, and HIV-related policy development, including training in best practices, models, and strategies for helping to reduce social stigma. Specific HIV/AIDS prevention activities undertaken in China thus far via USAID support include:

- Launch of the Chinese version of *Act Now*, an AIDS awareness publication urging active leadership to fight the epidemic, in cooperation with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)
- HIV/AIDS training for taxi drivers in Gejiu's entertainment district, including the free distribution of AIDS information flyers, sponsored by PSI, the local Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the taxi association
- HIV/AIDS training at a Wellness Center in Gejiu for sex workers, sponsored by FHI and the Red Cross, to help members negotiate safer sex practices with their clients
- Support services at Sunshine Homeland, a support group in Kunming for people living with HIV/AIDS, including training in craft-making as an income-earning activity, sponsored by the International HIV/AIDS Alliance
- Advocacy programs at drop-in centers in Gejiu, where injecting drug users and their families receive support services, including tips on quitting drugs and reducing their risk of HIV

IMPORTANT LINKS AND CONTACTS

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Tel: 86-10-6532-3831

<http://www.usembassy-china.org.cn/>

<http://www.usaid.gov/pubs/bj2001/ane/cn/>

<http://www.usaid.gov/policy/budget/cbj2005/ane/cn.html>

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